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BERLIN HAS BECOME "CITY OF SPENDERS" AS A RESULT OF WAR

CAFES AND HOTELS ARE FLOODED AND MILLIONAIRES HAVE SPRUNG UP OVER NIGHT

(By Associated Press.)

Berlin, June 2.—"Alles besetzt" (all full) said a gorgeously-uniformed individual standing before the street door of the Friedrichstrasse cafe. The man to whom he spoke had no intention of going in, but he happened to look toward the door as he passed and the uniformed one had parroted forth his one phrase so many times that the simple glance in his direction sufficed to evoke it again.

The passerby, however, grew curious, and made a trip through the better parts of the city. This is what he found:

Three better-class cafes with from ten to thirty persons standing outside or in the entrance-way, waiting for a table to become vacant.

All other wine or beer restaurants visited were so full that only one could find a free table for two he found. Two others where the doorkeepers announced in advance: "Alles besetzt."

The observer had for months encountered difficulty in finding a table in a leading restaurant having more than 500 tables. In one of the places Unter den Linden the head waiter had been graciously pleased to let him dine on his promise not to return the table longer than an hour. In another Unter den Linden restaurant he had found that it was all but impossible to eat without reserving a table in advance. And these two places are the most expensive ones in all Berlin.

The condition is symptomatic. War which brings poverty and misery to so many, brings wealth to others. Many persons who had been struggling along with barely more than the necessities of life for years have grown wealthy almost overnight. And they are spending, spending lavishly, spending carelessly. Berlin has become the City of Spenders.

The crowds that fill the better class places go there in spite of the fact that everything costs more than before the war. Beer is dearer. Even coffee has increased in price. The still considerable stocks of the highest grade French champagnes are finding a bigger sale than ever before. In the face of a price increase of four to five marks a bottle, a prominent German champagne firm recently declared a dividend thrice greater than that of the preceding year. It was only one dividend contributed by the spenders.

Caviar cost from 18 to 24 marks a pound in peace times in Berlin. Until the recent prohibition of the further import of non-indispensable articles put an end to the business, vast quantities of Astrachan caviar were being sold for prices upwards of 42 marks. Similar conditions existed as to other luxuries.

Dealers in fine porcelains, Oriental rugs, bronzes and antiques generally are doing a flourishing business. There are almost no really fine rugs left among the stocks of the Berlin dealers. None can be secured by import, and the spenders have bought up all that were on hand. A Berlin resident went recently to one of the leading auction-houses in the hope of securing an old Turkish rug at a reasonable price. It sold for twenty per cent more than would have been realized in peace times. The same was true of other rugs of jewelry; in fact, of nearly everything offered.

The most fashionable jeweler in Berlin said to the Associated Press representative: "We are having great difficulty in keeping abreast of orders. This is of course, due in part to a lack of workmen, but it is due also on account of business which—apart from the tourist trade, which is naturally altogether lacking—is probably higher than it was before the war. People of a class who never came here before are now buying, and buying good and expensive articles. I have in mind a typical case."

"Before the war a certain woman used to come in once or twice a year and buy some trifling article, rarely paying more than a hundred marks. She bargained inactively; always striving to have the price reduced, and none of us liked to wait on her. She came in last week and asked to be shown some real necklaces. She selected one for thirty thousand marks and paid for it in cash without bargaining. Her husband is a leather dealer."

"Another woman of a similar type has made several large purchases from us. Before the war her husband had a small machine shop, employing three or four hands. He is now running day and night with sixty and has made two million marks."

The leading German diamond mining company will pay for 1916 a fifty per cent dividend against thirty-five for 1914, although cut off from its mines in German South Africa. The sale at increased prices of its stock on hand in Germany justified this company officials say.

The spenders have been buying pianos. Their children are taking piano lessons. Fashionable tailors are making evening clothes for men who never before felt the need of them or who could not afford them if they did. A mild winter has not been able to affect seriously the business of the best furriers.

The Associated Press representative asked the head of the largest theatre district agency in Berlin about conditions in the theatrical world. "Absolutely as the top which," he said, "our business is every bit as

Centenarian?

Empress Eugenie of France is Now 90 and May Live to Age of 100

(By Associated Press.)

Farnborough, Hampshire, Eng., June 2.—When Empress Eugenie of France recently celebrated her ninety-ninth birthday at the residence where she passes exile from her native country she bade fair to fulfill a prophecy made by a gypsy woman at Madrid in 1839—that she would live somewhere about a hundred years. She enjoys remarkable health and is able to get about the house, although suffering somewhat from lameness for many years. Every day she is taken out in a bath chair to enjoy the open air, of which she is extremely fond.

The Empress often entertains visitors, mostly relatives, and with her on her birthday were Prince Victor and their family. In one wing of her house she has had apartments fitted up for a number of wounded British officers, and she paid a visit to them on the day of her anniversary, and spoke to them of their experiences at the front, for she exhibits keen interest in the war. On several occasions she has invited small parties of the less severely wounded among them to dinner, and their presence at her table appears to have had remarkable effect on her spirit.

The story of the gypsy's prophecy is told in connection with a slight accident which occurred to the little Spanish princess when she was only thirteen. She was a girl of very high spirit and one day when romping slid down the stair banister so fast that she dashed her head against a projection and fell unconscious. A gypsy woman who was passing the doorway entered and assisted in restoring the princess, whose mother was bewailing the accident.

"There is no danger," said the gypsy. "The little lady will live to about a hundred. She was born under the open sky on the night of a battle. She will be a queen."

As a matter of fact, whether the gypsy knew it or not, the girl who was to become Empress of France was born at Granada in a tent in the palace garden where her mother had taken refuge during an earthquake. The princess herself was rather superstitious, and when she was affianced to the Emperor, Napoleon III, she was found one day by her mother in the act of working out a symbol of letters and figures, which on investigation turned out to be her own name Eugene with the initials of her future husband, Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, added. She added together the numbers of the letters in accordance with their order in the alphabet, which gave the following result: E-5, U-21, G-7, E-5, N-14, and B-2 equalling 54.

Ever afterwards she asserted she would live to this age.

COMING AND GOING

Miss Margaret Hodges of Starr has returned home from Withford College, she being a member of the graduating class this year.

Messrs. Glenn Lassiter and Ralph Smith attended the Wofford dance at Glenn Springs on Thursday night.

Mrs. Dora Dee Walker of Winthrop College spent a short time in the city Thursday with Miss Lillian Snellgrove.

Mrs. T. C. Jackson and Miss Lois Jackson of Iva were in the city shopping yesterday.

Mr. John McDonald of Fairplay spent yesterday in the city.

Mr. W. P. Cook of Iva was a visitor yesterday.

Messrs. J. E. and K. E. Allgood of Liberty were business visitors yesterday.

Mr. W. A. Tripp of Easley was among the visitors yesterday.

Dr. T. O. Kirkpatrick of Lowndesville was a business visitor yesterday.

Mr. Dowitt Harper, who has been a student at Wofford Fitting School and who graduated this year, passed through the city yesterday on route to his home at Lowndesville.

Mr. Roy Horton of Starr, student at Auburn, spent yesterday with Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Dodson, en route home.

good as any previous time if not better. I tried, I am disposed to think that it is better. All theatres are doing well. The people seem to have plenty of money and they are spending it."

This last sentence of the ticket agent appears to sum up the situation. In the nature of things, the number of these spenders, of the people who are benefiting by the war, must be small. Wages for day labor have, it is true, increased greatly, but there are fewer men laborers left. Military service affects chiefly only skilled craftsmen and leaders of undertakings. Hence the day laborers of military age are mainly with the colors. One notes the absence of their custom in the cheaper saloons and beer restaurants, many of which are struggling along only with difficulty and some of which have had to close their doors. But as one ascends the scale one begins to meet the spenders, and their number increases in direct ratio with the expense of the resort visited.

REVOLUTION CAUSES GENERAL CONFUSION IN SOUTHERN CHINA

STATUS OF THE PROVINCES CANNOT BE DETERMINED UNDER CONDITIONS THAT NOW EXIST—THREE DECLARE INDEPENDENCE

(By Associated Press.)

Peking, June 2.—So much confusion reigns in South China that it is impossible to determine exactly what the status of many of the Southern provinces is at this particular time. Yun-nan, Kwei-chow and Kwang-si provinces not only declared their independence of the Peking government, but have not allied themselves with the other three provinces. In other words, Kwang-tung, Che-kiang and Kiang-ni provinces have proclaimed themselves neutral. They are protecting themselves against both the government and the rebel troops, and their action seems to have served internal peace and prevented civil transactions of ordinary commercial transactions rather than to protect against the Peking government or show sympathy with the movement for a southern republic.

When Kwang-tung province, with the important city of Canton, declared its independence, the enemies of the Peking government felt that Yuan Shi-kai's fate was sealed. However, the revolutionary leaders in Kwang-tung are so unfriendly to each other and have had so many dissensions that Kwang-tung's secession seems to have little effect on the national situation.

On April 12, representatives of the warring political factions in Canton held a general meeting to discuss the situation. The leaders of the conference disagreed so violently that revolvers were drawn and men outside the conference room fired rifles at the members.

Robbers have been inspired by the unsettled conditions to engage in looting the northern districts of Kwang-tung and the province has been compelled to issue a manifesto preventing both the government troops and the revolutionists from crossing its borders.

Meanwhile the 30 days' truce which was arranged with Tsai Ao, the leader of the independence movement in Yunnan province, is in effect, and there is no fighting in Sze-chuen province, which was the centre of so much bloodshed early in the revolution. This armistice may be extended, it is indicated. Negotiations between Tsai Ao and the Peking government are progressing satisfactorily through the medium of Chen Yi, military governor of Sze-chuen province. Tsai Ao is quite willing that Yuan Shi-kai shall remain as president; indeed, he insists that he must remain. But the conditions under which Tsai Ao would have him continue involves a complete change in the present form of government under which all powers centres in Yuan Shi-kai. Tsai Ao demands that there shall be a popularly-elected parliament, a responsible cabinet representative of all the various provinces of China, and that the military troops in south China now engaged in the revolution shall be retained as government troops, but placed under the direction of the cabinet rather than under the personal supervision of the president.

There is little cooperation between the revolutionary leaders in Yunnan, Kwei-chow and Kwang-si, and those in the other provinces which have declared their independence. The Kwang-tung revolutionaries are insistent that Yuan Shi-kai must abdicate. In Kiang-si the movement has been milder, and apparently there is no clamor for Yuan Shi-kai's retirement. Although Che-kiang has officially declared its independence, many of its prominent officials have maintained their loyalty to the Peking government and insist there is no demand for Yuan Shi-kai's abdication. Tang Shao-yi and other radical revolutionary leaders in Shanghai are unanimous in their demand for Yuan Shi-kai's abdication, and insist that peace cannot come to China while the president continues in office.

The absolute lack of coordination in the efforts of the president's enemies and the constant strife between various ambitious revolutionary leaders have neutralized the revolutionary movement very considerably, and played strongly into the hands of Yuan Shi-kai and his coterie. The president is now said to be quite willing to accept the guidance of a responsible premier and cabinet, and also to have a parliament selected at an election not manipulated by the central government. These concessions would recognize Tsai Ao, who is probably the biggest leader in the revolution, as he has actually taken the field and directed the revolutionary operations. He has like Tang Shao-yi who has conducted a campaign of publicity under foreign protection in the treaty ports, have not attracted as much attention as the leaders who have actually taken up arms and put themselves out of the state's laws into the role of military men.

People are learning that a little forethought often saves them a big expense. Here is an instance. E. W. Archer, Caldwell, Mo., says: "I do not believe that my family has been without Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy since we commenced keeping house years ago. When we go on an extended visit we take it with us." Obtainable every where.



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Extract from the Eleventh Edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica on the Value of Life Insurance

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